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FM AMCONSUL LAGOS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6678  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA IMMEDIATE 6959  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0553  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0389  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 1006  
RUCNFB/FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEBAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LAGOS 000296

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STATE PASS DOE FOR DAS JBRODMAN AND CGAY  
STATE FOR DS/IP/AF, AF/EX, DS/IP/OPO, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/ITA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/26/2036  
TAGS: [ECPS](#) [ECON](#) [EINV](#) [EIND](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NI](#)  
SUBJECT: TELECOM AND HOSTAGE CRISIS

REF: LAGOS 225

Classified By: Acting Consul General William Howe for  
reasons 1.4 (D/E)

¶1. (S/NF) FBI and Econoff approached Starcomms Managing Director Maher Qubain February 27 to request data on an Internet Protocol (IP) address used by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) to send email communications. Maher agreed to provide all data including uniform resource locators (URLs), emails, and any phone numbers traced to the global IP address. Subscribers are using mask routers to make it more difficult to track sources, he said.

¶2. (S/NF) Similar to the first hostage crisis, kidnappers and their sympathizers are finding ways to hide subscriber identities. They are using temporary subscriber identification module (SIM) cards to communicate via phone and hiding IP addresses.

¶3. (S/NF) Comment: Private Telecom Operators can play a key role in providing us with sensitive user information. Starcomms has intimated that they are willing to assist us. End comment.  
HOWE